



**IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Inventors:** Miller et al.                      **Examiner:** Ahmed, S.  
5   **Serial No:** 10/061,836                      **Group Art Unit:** 1765  
    **Filing Date:** 1/31/02                      **Confirmation No:** 9497  
    **Title:** Methods and Systems for Forming Slots in a Substrate

10   **To:** Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
    PO Box 1450  
    Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

15   **From:** Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.  
    Intellectual Property Administration  
    P.O. Box 272400  
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SA  
11/29/04

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

20      This communication is in response to the Final Office Action dated  
9/17/04, for which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set  
for 12/17/04.

**Amendment to the Claims** are reflected on the list of claims which  
begins on page 2 of this paper.

25      **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.